B. Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 19, and continuing through page 2, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Although canes can be enormously effective in aiding one's mobility by partially transferring the user's weight from the legs to the arms as well as by steadying such person, in effect providing three legs rather than only two, most cane users also find that it is desirable to have a means for quickly and effectively temporarily storing such cane when it is not in use. For example, during times when the user is sitting down or in a resting position, the cane is not required to be used, but preferably should be stored within easy reach of the user for convenient retrieval when such cane is again required for use. However, often there is no convenient or practical place to store or rest the cane within easy reaching distance. If the cane is placed temporarily aside, older users not only may forget where it was placed, but the cane may be precariously placed, and when an attempt is made to recover it, frequently it will be just out of reach or may have been knocked down or over or may have slid to the floor where it can itself constitute a tripping hazard. In addition, many cane users do not have the ability, vision, or range of motion to easily walk, bend, or otherwise move to recover a cane which may have been resting against a wall and fallen to the floor, whereupon it may have become a tripping hazard or danger itself, not only to the user, but to others. Not infrequently, the cane user himself or herself may knock over a standing cane and then have difficulty in recovering it, or even be unable to recover it, from the floor. On the other hand, a cane user often does not wish to hold the cane when it is not required, as he or she wishes to

have his or her hands free to perform other tasks, such as preparing food, opening medicine bottles, eating, writing, using the telephone, or sometimes the cane owner simply wants to rest without having to grasp the cane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2, and continuing to page 10, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A novel cane holding device is designed to make a cane available for immediate use by a cane user while maintaining the user's hands free to perform other tasks when the cane is not required. In the invention, the cane is secured by a holding device to a lanyard or short cord preferably around the neck of the user. The holding device is made from a pliable resilient rubber or plastic material which is easily forced around the cane and in which the cane is held in place. The exact design or nature of the holding device may depend on the contour or shape of the cane. However, the cane holder is designed to accommodate in any one embodiment a variety of shapes and sizes of canes. The holding device has a first or larger opening or orifice into or through which the cane head or handle is first slipped, and a second or smaller interconnecting opening or orifice into which the cane shaft can then be squeezed or forced from the larger opening or orifice through the interconnecting channel between the larger and smaller openings or orifices to more securely hold the cane. A larger cane may remain in the larger opening or orifice. The cane holder is temporarily secured to or held on or positioned with respect to the body of the user above the waistline of the user so that

the cane does not touch the floor when the user is standing and does not otherwise become a tripping hazard either when standing or sitting. To remove the cane from the holding device, the cane shaft may be squeezed back into the larger ~~hole~~opening or orifice and the cane then slipped out of the holding device. The cane holder of the invention is, therefore, to a large extent a single device that because of its adjacent interconnecting openings, or orifices, as well as its resilient nature, is readily adaptable to securely holding a variety of cane designs in various suitable orientations within the holder depending upon the relative size and shape of both the holder and cane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 20, and continuing through page 16, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The cane holder of the invention, while related generically to a basic ring-type holder, sometimes used for support of the scabbard of a bayonet or the like, is significantly more sophisticated, since, instead of being provided with a single orifice, there are at least two separate different diameter orifices adjacent to each other with a restricted dimension access channel or transverse opening between such orifices. This allows a cane to be slid into the larger opening and then moved through the access channel or connecting opening into the smaller orifice or opening in which it may be better held or retained. The cane holder of the invention is, furthermore, preferably formed of a resilient material such as low density polyethylene plastic that normally retains its shape, but can be deformed by a steady force allowing a cane shaft of a

larger size than the transverse opening between adjacent orifices to be forced through such opening either into or out of the smaller orifice of the holder. Other suitable materials such as a smooth surfaced rubber could also be used. The resilience of the material of the holder also allows the inside surfaces of the holder to be physically stretched and forced over the head of a cane rather than having to pass the shaft of the cane all the way through the orifice from the other end. In such instance the orifice or opening of the holder is stretched over the head of the cane and then constricts around the shaft. The stiffness of the material is great enough to prevent deformation by any normally or likely application of accidental force and consequent slipping of the cane from the holder. A steady deliberate force, however, will temporarily deform the plastic so that a cane can either be forced from one orifice into a smaller orifice, or the larger orifice can be forced over the head of a cane where such head is too large to slip through the larger orifice, and it is not desired to slip the cane into the orifice from the lower end. The combination of having at least two interconnected orifices in the holder plus construction of such holder from a stiff yet deformable and resilient material provides a very effective and adaptable cane holder that can accept a variety of canes of different designs and diameters. Furthermore, varying the sizes of the orifices adapts the cane holder to ~~the~~ alternative varieties and sizes of canes. Thus, a set of three separate cane holders constructed in accordance with the invention with progressively larger openings from the smallest to the largest holder will provide a suitable cane holder for almost any conceivable cane. In addition, the invention is not limited to

having only two orifices in the cane holder, but could also incorporate more than two interconnecting orifices such as, for example, three orifices of varying size, four orifices of varying size or the like. Such interconnecting orifices can also be arranged in varying ways, for example, in a three orifice cane holder with two of the orifices interconnecting with the third, or alternatively with the orifices interconnecting in serial order. It is preferred, however, for there to be only two orifices, since two orifices are sufficient, particularly when combined with the flexibility of the holder material, to adapt to a variety of canes. Furthermore, a two-orifice holder will then be inherently smaller and more compact, providing a neater appearance and requiring less attention when using. For example, when there are more than two orifices, more attention will have to be given to placement of a cane in the correct orifice and then moving it to an adjacent smaller orifice, or even, if the cane is of suitable size to be both initially deposited or placed into one orifice and also retained in such orifice, to pick the most suitable orifice. Thus it is usually more convenient to have a cane holder in accordance with the invention with only two or at most three interconnected orifices, but in accordance with the invention it could have from two to a significant number of orifices arranged in some suitable interconnecting order.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 22, and continuing through page 17, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to **FIG. 1**, a cane holder **10** in accordance with the invention for temporarily holding or supporting a cane is shown in isometric projection. The holder **10** per se includes a generally arcuate cane-engaging outer member **12**, shown in more detail in **FIG. 5**, comprising a generally arcuate member or section **14** surrounding or defining a generally elongated arcuate opening or orifice **16** within or adjacent to its outer or "lower" end or section **18**, all as shown best in **FIG. 5**, combined and interconnecting with a generally smaller arcuate member or section **20** surrounding or defining a second smaller more nearly circular arcuate opening or orifice **22** adjacent to and interconnected with opening or orifice **16**. Both openings **16** and **22** are dimensioned to receive and demountably support a cane, or more particularly the shank or shaft of a cane, within their circumferences, i.e. in interior openings or orifices **16** and **22**. The two generally arcuate cane engaging outer ring members **14** and **20** are connected to each other on opposite sides at **26**, and the two openings or orifices **16** and **22** interconnect through short restricted passage **24** between inwardly protruding side sections **26a** and **26b**. It will be noted that side sections **26a** and **26b** not only project inwardly to form the interconnecting restricted passage **24**, but also the side sections **26a** and **26b** have an increased bulk or mass which serves to stiffen this portion of the cane-engaging outer member **12** of the holder **10**. These heavier sections in effect "beef up" the outer member **12** of the holder at this point so passage of a walking cane shaft through the interconnecting passage **24** is resisted more strongly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 19, and continuing through page 18, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Holder **10** also particularly includes as a substantially integral part thereof a lanyard **27**, see **FIG. 1**, generally having an upper or outer end **28** and lower or inner end **30**, such lanyard **27** being of sufficient length to fit over the head and around the neck of the user or wearer of the cane holder of the invention. Lanyard **27** can be made from a variety of materials such as leather, polypropylene, or other flexible plastic, but is preferably made from woven nylon or other similar plastic material. First and second ends **29** and **31** of lanyard **27** are joined together by a compression fitting **32**, although other suitable fastening means or fittings may also be used. Although the lanyard **27** can be slipped over the head of the wearer, a means for detachably connecting such lanyard **27** is also preferably provided, such as by the plastic slip connection formed by the compression fitting **32** comprising a resilient plastic sleeve into which the ends **29** and **31** of the lanyard may be slipped or forcibly inserted. The compression of the sleeve **32** is sufficient to normally hold the ends of the lanyard in place or together, but not sufficient to prevent one or both ends from being released if a sufficient force is exerted, for example, if the lanyard should become snagged upon some object. A second more loosely fitted compression fitting **34**, which may be forcibly slidable on the lanyard, serves to keep the lower portions of the lanyard together and an upper spring loaded pinch clamp **36** having a threaded tightening means or screw **38** can be used to adjust the length of the loop in the lanyard **27** so that it goes over the user's head and

around his or her neck, but is not too loose. The spring loaded pinch clamp **36** in particular, therefore, serves to, in effect, adjust the length of the lanyard both for passage over the head of the user and to adjust how low the cane holding fitting **10** will be supported upon the user. A releasable snap fitting **39** preferably attaches to the end of the lanyard as well as to a support ring **48c** attached to the cane holder **10**. As well known in the art, compression of the snaps **39a** serves to release the two sections of the releasable snap fitting **39**. Where the lanyard does not require any adjustment as to length such as when it is used by a fairly good-sized man, the adjustable pinch clamp **36** may be dispensed with.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 16, and continuing through page 26, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 5 is an elevation and **FIG. 6** is a side view of a preferred embodiment of the invention in which the configuration of the cane holder **10** is similar to or essentially the same as that shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2**. **FIG. 7** is a cross-section of such cane holder along section **7-7** of **FIG. 5**, which constitutes the ring mounting section **25** of the cane holder **10**, and **FIG. 8** is a cross-section **8-8** through **FIG. 5**. In these sections, the opening **47** at the top receives the support ring **48** shown particularly in **FIG. 1** and in **FIG. 5** in broken lines ~~which~~as it passes through similar openings in the attachment at the end of the cane holder **12** in order to attach~~es~~ the buckle or snap fastening **39** of the lanyard **27** to the cane holder. In **FIG. 5**, the top or inner cane accommodating orifice

22 may be desirably about 1.25 inches in diameter, while the lower or outer orifice cane accommodating orifice **16** may be about 1.50 inches in its shorter dimension and 3.25 inches in its longer dimension depending, however, upon the expected range of cane shafts that are to be handled. As indicated above, it is expected that at least one of a set of three cane holders in accordance with the invention with progressively smaller orifices **16** and **22** or **16c** and **22c** should be able to accept almost any cane made. Thus, one in possession of three identical cane holders except for the respective sizes of the orifices **16** and **22** or **16c** and **22c** should be able to suspend on their person almost any cane presently made. In such case, the difference in relative sizes of the cane accommodating orifices from one holder to the next may be assumed to be about one-half inch or, in other words, a one-half inch differential between the orifice sizes provided in each succeeding cane holder. It will be understood, however, that only a serious collector of canes is likely to have more than one cane holder in accordance with the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 9 is an elevation and **FIG. 10** is a side view of the embodiment of the cane holder of the invention shown in **FIGS. 3** and **4** in which there are essentially two adjacent more or less circular openings **16c** and **22c** within the outer ring members **12c** overall and **14c** and **20c** designated separately. **FIG. 11** is a section **11-11** through **FIG. 9**, and **FIG. 12** is a section **12-12** through **FIG. 9** similar to **FIGS. 6, 7,** and **8** with

respect to **FIG. ~~7~~5**. In **FIG. 9**, the upper opening **22c** may be about 1.25 inches in diameter while the lower opening **16c** may be about 1.75 inches in diameter, depending, however, upon the expected range of cane shafts that the holder is intended for.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 11, and continuing through page 28, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The operation of the cane holder is as follows. First, the lanyard is placed around the neck of a wearer or cane user such that the first and second ends of the lanyard as well as the holding device hang in a vertical position over the chest of the owner or user, with the central portion of the lanyard positioned around the back of the neck of the owner or user. This can be done either by simply looping the lanyard over the head of the user, or particularly in the embodiment of the lanyard shown in **FIGS. 1** and **2** adjusting the adjustment slip fitting **36** or in the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 3** and **4**, alternatively by unhooking the slip connection **36c** on the lanyard and reattaching it around the neck of the user. However, it will be understood that the lanyard will usually just be looped over the head of the user. Normally, when the cane is in use, the head of the cane will, if possible, be urged through the outer loops **14**, **14c** or **14a** of the various embodiments of the cane holder of the invention, and when the shaft of the cane has been received in the orifices **16, 16c** or **16a**, the shaft will then be forced transversely through the openings **24, 24c** or **24a** into smaller opening **22, 22c** or **22a** in

which position either the shaft will be securely held or retained by the constricted size of the orifice or alternatively the cane head will be too large to pass or slip downwardly through the orifice in which the cane is contained, thereby supporting the cane as a whole. Alternatively, when the cane is not in use, the lower end of such cane may be passed or slipped through the outer or larger loops **16, 16c** or **16a** of holding device **10, 10c** or **10a**. Gravity will then urge the cane downwardly in the holding device, in effect causing the holding device to ride up along the shaft of the cane into snug engagement with the inner surface of the cane. Normally, this will occur generally near the upper section of the cane shaft, since most canes have a slightly enlarged central and upper diameter with respect to their lower diameter. Alternatively the head of the cane may be engaged by the loops **14, 14c** or **14a**. In either case before the cane becomes wedged into the opening **16, 16c** or **16a** of the holder by reason of contact of the holder with the upper shaft diameter or the head **42** of the cane, the cane shaft **44** may be moved laterally through the interconnecting opening **24, 24c** or **24a** into the inner smaller openings **22, 22c** or **22a** where its shaft may be wedged in place to hold the cane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 22, and continuing through page 31, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGS. 20 and **21** are provided to illustrate the scope of the invention. In **FIG. 20**, a holder **62** having an outer configuration somewhat similar to that shown in **FIGS. 1** and **5** is shown with, however, a tripartite inner orifice configuration rather than a

bipartite configuration as shown in the earlier illustrated embodiment. The three separate but interconnected orifices **64, 66** and **68**, of the tripartite orifice embodiment of **FIG. 20** are of decreasing overall diameter so that a cane is normally first entered into the largest orifice **64** and then moved through the interconnecting openings into progressively smaller orifices until the one which most securely grasps or holds the cane is found. The movement will be, as readily seen from **FIG. 20**, normally from the largest orifice to the next largest orifice and then, if that does not fit snuggly about the cane, back through the central opening to the next largest opening of the holder **62**. As will be evident from the drawing in **FIG. 20**, the smaller orifice **68** could also be positioned in the apex of the holder structure next to the lanyard opening **57**, which would provide a more balanced holding arrangement where the cane shaft is fairly narrow and finally comes to rest or receives best support in the smallest orifice. However, if the cane is larger, then it will finally be stabilized or held in another one of the orifices in any event, so the order is perhaps not that important. The lanyard connection **57** could also be placed midway between the two smallest orifices so that whichever orifice the cane fitted the best would likely be toward the lanyard providing a slightly better balanced rest or holding position. The elongated shape of the lanyard opening **57** in **FIGS. 20** and also **FIGS. 24** and **25** allows either a flat or a more rounded lanyard to be passed directly through the orifice as described with respect to **FIGS. 18** and **19** which area adapted for a more or less round lanyard construction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The more convenient, but also more complicated side-to-side ring attachment ~~i~~as shown in other figures, such as **FIGS. 1, 3, 5, 9** and **13** heretofore described is usually a preferred embodiment. The use of the ring allows the cane holder to lie flat against the body when supported from a lanyard. However, the side-to-side opening to receive the lanyard directly as shown in **FIGS. 20, 21, 24** and **25** or, as a variation, **FIGS. 18** and **19** could also be used.